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CIA-SLANDER (150)

BALTIMORE, MD., DEC. 8 (AP)

A SLANDER SUIT FILED AGAINST AN AGENT OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS DISMISSED ON A MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT TODAY AFTER A FEDERAL JUDGE RULED THAT THE AGENT COULD NOT BE FORCED TO TESTIFY.

THE SUIT WAS FILED IN 1964 BY EERIK HEINE, 46, OF REXDALE, ONTARIO, AGAINST JURI RAUS OF HYATTSVILLE, MD.

HEINE SOUGHT \$10,000 IN COMPENSATORY DAMAGES AND \$100,000 IN PUNITIVE DAMAGES, CLAIMING RAUS SLANDERED HIM BY CALLING HIM AN AGENT OF THE SOVIET SECRET POLICE.

THE CIA REFUSED TO ALLOW RAUS TO TESTIFY, SAYING IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

IN HIS DECISION TODAY, CHIEF JUDGE ROSZEL C. THOMSEN OF U.S. DISTRICT COURT SAID ACTIVITIES BY THE CIA TO PROTECT ITS FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES ARE WITHIN THE POWER GRANTED BY CONGRESS TO THE AGENCY.

"IT IS CLEAR, THEREFORE, SAID THE JUDGE THAT IF RAUS MAKES FURTHER DISCLOSURES WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE AGENCY, HE WOULD NOT ONLY VIOLATE THE SECRECY AGREEMENT (WHICH HE SIGNED UPON TAKING A POSITIVE OATH WITH THE CIA), BUT MIGHT ALSO VIOLATE THE STATUTE PROHIBITING UNLAWFUL DISCLOSURES OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION RESPECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE."

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